

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 27 MARCH 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

In the news today.

SARL AGM

SARL AND SA AMSAT JOIN FORCES AT PLC CONFERENCE

CHANGES TO KENYAN REGULATIONS

SETI AND AMATEUR RADIO

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office, which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS depends on clubs and individuals for news of interest to radio amateurs. Please place your news items on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday pre-ceeding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English, but please check any dates and telephone numbers before submitting your news item; the editor has found some grave mistakes in the past.

You are listening to ZS6SRL and the news follows in detail.

SARL AGM

The 2005 Annual General Meeting of the SARL will be held on Saturday, 9th April 2005 at the National Amateur Radio Centre in Johannesburg. The AGM notices were all mailed by Thursday 17 March 2005 and the document is also available on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za.

On Friday evening 8 April the Awards presentation will take place at 19:00 at the Sentech hall at NARC. At 20:00 there will be a short entertainment session followed by a braai and social gathering. The cost is R65 per person and bookings can be made with Vee Antal at the SARL office. The dress is smart casual.

On Saturday morning 9 April registration will start at 07:30 with the AGM commencing at 09:00. At 11:00 there will be a tea break and at 11:30 an informal meeting on amateur matters. At 13:00 refreshments will be available.

SARL AND SA AMSAT JOIN FORCES TO PRESENT AMATEUR RADIO'S CASE AT PLC CONFERENCE

Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH, President of the SARL and Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, President of SA AMSAT, will present a joint paper at the second annual Power Line Communication conference to be held in Johannesburg in July. Entitled "Is PLC the death of HF Communication?" the paper will discuss concerns about interference stretching from HF to weak signal communication in satellite bands and will call for a controlled and open process for pilot studies with built-in safety procedures to terminate a pilot study should the pilot make HF unusable in the area where it is being carried out.

CHANGES TO KENYAN REGULATIONS

Ted Alleyne, 5Z4NU, the chairman/secretary of the Amateur Radio Society of Kenya has informed SARL News that Communications Commission of Kenya has just approved the use by Kenya amateurs of 30 metres (10,100 to 10,150 MHz) and limited 160 meters (1,81 to 1,85 MHz).

Ted says "Further improvements have been initiated such as electronic logging, authority for unlicensed persons to pass greetings within Kenya only and under supervision, supervised operation by unlicensed students for the RAE, exchanging the term"/A" for the more modern "/P", "/M" and "/MM" and some less important matters. The printed frequency schedule in the license for the first time now includes the 12 and 17 meter bands which we have actually been authorised to use for some years. It also updates the schedule of modes permitted which I believe dated from pre-WWII days, when digital modes and SSTV were unknown."

EXTRA TWO WEEKS TO ENTER CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION

An extra two weeks are available if you are entering the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust Construction competition. The 2005 project is a low power two-band HF CW transceiver for 20 and 40 metres, fully tuneable with an output of at least 10 watt. The design must use locally available components and in kit form must not cost more than R500 excluding the cabinet.

Entries are invited in two stages. First stage is a paper design, which must include full specs and a detailed write-up. Entries for the first stage must be received by the Trust before 15 April 2005, allowing two extra weeks. Entries may be mailed to PO Box 90438 Garsfontein, 0043 or sent by Email to saardt@intekom.co.za. Go to www.amateurradio.org.za for more details on the competition.

SETI AND AMATEUR RADIO

Perhaps the most ambitious microwave SETI project ever undertaken without Government equipment or funding, Project Argus is an effort to deploy and coordinate roughly 5 000 small radio telescopes around the world, in an all-sky survey for microwave signals of possible intelligent extra-terrestrial origin.

When fully operational, Project Argus will provide the first ever continuous monitoring of the entire sky, in all directions in real time.

Project Argus employs small, quite inexpensive amateur radio telescopes, built and operated by SETI League members at their individual expense. A typical Project Argus station can be built for from a few hundred to a few thousand Rand, depending upon the expertise of the builder. The equipment, although of modest sensitivity, is still believed capable of detecting microwave radiation from technologically advanced civilizations out to a distance of several hundred light years.

Book now for AMSATCON 2005 to be held on 14 May 2005 at the SARL National Amateur Radio Centre and learn more about SETI, one of the many papers to be delivered. Registration for SARL and SA AMSAT members is only R70 including refreshments and lunch as well as free entry in the attendance draw. For the registration form and more details, visit www.amsatsa.org.za.

OOPS WRONG URL

In last week's SARL News the URL for the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust website was given incorrectly. If you would like to see who have all donated to the SARL IARU Fund, go to www.amateurradio.org.za. The fund still stands at R 3626. The target is R13 000 which has to be reached by May when the SARL subscription to the IARU is due. Please make your contribution and help to keep the SARL and South Africa Internationally represented. After making a donation please send a copy of the deposit slip by fax to 012 991 5651, or by e-mail to saardt@intekom.co.za or by mail to PO Box 90438, Garsfontein, 0042. The account number for contributions is ABSA 560 142 722, Menlyn Park, branch code 335 645. Cheques should be made payable to the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust. Full details can be found on www.amateurradio.org.za.

TWO SARL CONTESTS IN APRIL

The first leg of the SARL 80 metre QSO Party will be on the air on Thursday evening 07 April 2005 starting at 19:00 and ending at 22:00 CAT. It is a phone contest with activity on the segment 3,600 to 3,650 MHz.

On Sunday 10 April 2005 the SARL Hamnet 40 metre Simulated Emergency contest will be run from 14:00 to 16:00 CAT. This is also a phone contest.

The rules for both contest are available on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za and will be sent out with HF Happenings.

WEST RAND BOOT SALE

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club will host a boot sale on Saturday 2nd April at 12:00 CAT. The venue will be the WRARC clubhouse in Kroton Street, Weltevreden Park. Please note that due to popular demand the gates will open at 12:00. For more information please contact Dave, ZR6AOC, on 083 449 8991. We are looking forward to seeing you and your friends there.

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports: Seasonally this is a great time for HF propagation, as the Northern Hemisphere passed into spring and the Southern Hemisphere into autumn last Sunday. But, sunspot activity is low as we slip toward the bottom of the cycle—still some two years off.

The weekly average of the daily sunspot number slipped by more than 16 points from a week earlier to 44.3. The daily average of the solar flux was down by more than 12 points to 92.1. Geomagnetic A and K index showed stable conditions, with slightly unsettled conditions on 19 March.

The forecast for this week shows more of the same, with solar flux slipping below 90. A solar wind stream may cause some unsettled to active conditions.

DIARY OF EVENTS

31 March - closing date for final papers for AMSATCOM 2005; 07 April - SARL 80 Metre QSO Party; 08 April - SARL Awards Dinner; 09 April - SARL AGM; 10 April - SARL Hamnet 40 Metre Simulated Emergency Contest; 14 April - closing date for May RAE; 15 April - closing date for part 1 of the 2005 Construction Competition; 14 May - AMSATCON 2005; 19 May - Radio Amateur Examination; 31 May - closing date for part 2 of the 2005 Construction Competition.

The SARL invites you to listen on Sundays at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 810, 7 205, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

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